Instructions for your two-page (blog) essay
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HSA10 The Economics of Oil and Energy

Your first graded assignment in this class requires you to write a two-page essay (which implies a word length between 750 and 900 words. The draft of this essay will be submitted by you on the date shown on the course calendar and will be subject to peer review on that day. It will be returned to you and the final draft will be due shortly thereafter on the date shown on the course calendar. The grading for this paper, which will include your performance as a peer in the peer review, will constitute 10% of your total grade for the semester.

The draft will be printed and brought to class for the peer review. The final version will be uploaded to a special folder on Sakai. I require that you convert all due assignments to PDF format. It is easier for me to markup, store, and return PDF.

The essay will be based upon the reading assignments for the common content of the HSA10 classes (referred to in your course calendar as HMC, LLA, MBA, and BMG), the class discussion over the first three periods of the class and the document that guided those discussions. That document and those discussions will introduce a full range of controversial topics.

When writing your essay, you must advocate a position in a way that clearly states your view. You may stake out two or more positions but keep in mind that this is a short paper. It will be advisable to make a very solid case for one or two propositions than a thin case for many.

This is a paper of advocacy where you are expected to clearly state your opinion and do your best, given your constraints of time, resources, and paper length, to support what you say.

Regard this paper as an advocacy blog, written in the tone of a tempered political blog (not written in the tone of a crazed "my way or the hi-way" blog).

You grade for this paper will not be influenced whatever stance you take. It will be judged by the clarity of your proposition, the organization of your argument and the integrity of the support offered in the effort to convince your reader.

We will discuss some possible candidate topics during our class discussions.

For this document (we will use slightly modified standards for other, larger documents) use standard Word default margins, which are one inch on all sides, top, and bottom, and which
is applied to this document. Use a common 12 point font (like Times New Roman) for the main body.

Format your title like the title at the top of this page. The title should use 14 point bold, and everything else 12 point regular, as is done here.

Lines should be spaced at 1.5 spaces and paragraphs should be indented. There should be no additional space after a paragraph (which will require you to override the Word default).

According to Professor Evans,

"... quotes should be indented one full tab left side only, with quotation marks as shown, with 1.5 space separating the quote from the main body of the text and 1.5 space within the quote, as was done for this quote. A quote is typically footnoted (sometimes not because of context) as is tautologically shown here." ¹

Footnotes are best to use because they are easier to work into blended documents. Eleven points is the default font size for footnotes in Word and we will use that. For formatting footnotes we will use the Chicago Manual of Style, which has online representation which will format your footnotes for you. You are encouraged to use the SourceAid citation builder.²

Please put a final word count at the end of the essay, as was done here. (Sometimes when submitting professional material you are asked to submit a word count). Word always counts words and displays them right next to the page count on the extreme bottom left side of the display.

Although in later essays I will encourage the inclusion of data tables, graphs, and other images - in fact it will be required in the research paper - in this essay I just want text.

You should try to keep track of how much time it takes you to write this essay, including preparation and revision. We will talk about that and time management in the class.

Don't waste space for the purpose of increasing word count, which I am doing here. You are probably not very impressed with the content of this paragraph. I will not be impressed with empty content if you provide that to me. Please don't hope that I won't notice that you have padded your essay. You noticed that I padded this essay didn't you?

[830 words]

² Found at http://www.sourceaid.com